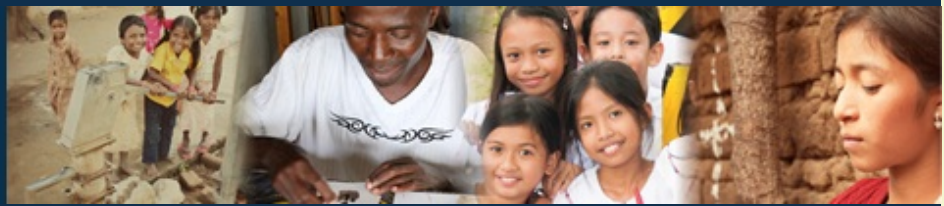




**Nazarene  
Compassionate  
Ministries**

*Compassion as a lifestyle*



**December 2016**

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## About NCM USA/Canada

Nazarene Compassionate Ministries seeks to live and act compassionately in the world following Christ's own life and ministry. We seek to be incarnations of the same gospel that Christ lived and preached and to be witnesses to the same love and compassion God has for our world.

**In the United States and Canada, NCM works closely with Compassionate Ministry Centers (CMCs) to bring compassion and healing to communities that need the love and presence of Christ.**

### Mission

Nazarene Compassionate Ministries USA/Canada partners with Nazarene interests to facilitate ministries which address the temporal as well as the spiritual needs of the economically disadvantaged.

### Churches

Local churches are the primary avenue for Nazarenes to reach out to those in their communities. Nazarene Compassionate Ministries seeks to support churches in starting and maintaining ministry to the underserved and marginalized. We



Forward to a Friend

## Dear Friends,

Christmastime is here...

When you hear those 3 words, do you - like me - start imagining the Charlie Brown Christmas? I love watching that movie with my family, but my favorite part - and perhaps yours as well - comes when the all-important question is asked, "Isn't there anyone who knows what is Christmas?" and Linus steps onto the stage:

*And there were in the same country shepherds, abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them! And they were so afraid. And the angel said unto them, "Fear not! For, behold, I bring you tidings of great joy, which shall be to all my people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ, the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you: Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger." And suddenly, there was with the angel a multitude of the Heavenly Host praising God, and saying, "Glory to God in the Highest, and on Earth peace, and good will toward men.*

*That's what Christmas is all about, Charlie Brown.*

I love this part of the movie because we're so often in Charlie Brown's shoes trying to get everything else done that we ask, "what's this all about?" I pray that Linus' message (found in Luke chapter 2) would be our attitude and Christmas would be all about Christ and the hope His birth brings us.

I pray that is a special time of remembering who He is...

Wonderful Counselor  
Mighty God  
Everlasting Father  
Prince of Peace

On behalf of my family, the church, and a CMC serving alongside you, Merry Christmas!

Jay Height  
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believe every church, no matter size or budget, can find ways to meet needs in their community with compassion, creative, and the firm foundation and life-changing power of the Gospel message.

### **CMCs- Compassionate Ministry Centers**

A Compassionate Ministry Center is a non-profit organization dedicated to meeting the needs of the under-resourced in the community. While these organizations are often affiliated with a specific local church, they are in a strategic position to unite others in their community around a high-needs cause.

### **NDR- Nazarene Disaster Response**

Nazarene Disaster Response is Nazarenes mobilizing for disaster through Readiness, Response, and Recovery. Local Nazarenes are in a unique position to understand, serve, and remain with disaster victims in their own neighborhoods. In large-scale events the denomination can come alongside local efforts with the support of volunteers and donors from across the country and through our strong partnerships with other disaster relief agencies. NDR serves victims regardless of race, creed, or economic status by concentrating on assistance to the poor, elderly, and handicapped.

### **W&W- Work & Witness**

Work & Witness provides opportunities for Nazarenes to serve together in support of existing ministries such as churches, CMCs, and Nazarene Disaster Response. Work & Witness can be any type of project, from construction to evangelism to compassionate outreach.

## **Contact**

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# **Current Funding Opportunities**

**Walmart Foundation Community Grants Program** supports hunger relief and healthy eating, sustainability, women's economic empowerment, and career opportunities. **Apply**  
*Application Deadline:* December 31, 2016  
*Award Amount:* \$2,500

**Look Beneath the Surface Regional Anti-Trafficking Program** will be issuing a request for proposals for outreach, anti-trafficking training for local professionals, and public awareness designed to help identify victims of human trafficking. **More information**  
*Estimated Deadline:* March 7, 2017  
*Estimated Amount:* \$50,000 - \$150,000

**Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR)** will be issuing a request for proposals for Alternative Transitional Services for Unaccompanied Refugee Minors aiming to promote economic self-sufficiency and independent living. **More Information**  
*Estimated Post Date:* April 3, 2017  
*Estimate Application Due Date:* June 2, 2017  
*Award Amount:* \$700,000 - \$2,000,000

**Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) Ethnic Community Self Help Program** will be issuing a request for proposals to strengthen ethnic community self-help groups whose board of directors is composed of at least 60% current or former refugees. **More information**  
*Estimated Deadline:* May 30, 2017  
*Estimated Amount:* \$100,000 - \$200,000

**Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) Refugee Career Pathways Program** will be issuing a request for proposals to assist refugees in qualifying for licenses and certifications needed to attain employment. Activities include case management, training and technical assistance, English language training, and mentoring. **More information**  
*Estimate Deadline:* June 2, 2017  
*Estimate Amount:* \$150,000-250,000

**Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB)** will be issuing a request for proposals to support Transitional Living Programs and Maternity Group Homes serving homeless and runaway youth and their children. **More Information**  
*Estimated Deadline:* June 13, 2017  
*Estimated Amount:* \$100,000 - \$194,726

# **Caring at Christmas**

Christmas is truly a special time of the year. As churches and ministries around the nation touch so many lives with the love of Christ, it is an opportunity for us to embody what Christ's birth means - Emmanuel, God with us. We are honored to be the hands and feet



of Jesus to our neighbors in need of something so much greater than a toy or present. They need the hope of a Savior who longs to be in relationship with them, who loved us enough to die for us. Christmas is the beginning of the journey to the cross.

But Christmas can be an overwhelming time for us as individuals, churches, and ministries. Christmas brings with it lots to do and places to be. As ministries, there are so many people that need our help it can be overwhelming. We're often so busy helping others in need that we don't take the time to truly enjoy the season and the purpose for our helping others. One important question always asked after the holidays is how can we return Christ to Christmas? How can we communicate the hope we have for our communities and for ourselves?

Here's some great ways you and your CMC can help to make a difference in the lives of the neighbors you serve this Christmas season:

### **1. Hunger**

Remember that during these school breaks, children living in poverty will go hungry. For many children, the only meals they receive are at school. And since most students exist in a food desert - living with little to no access to fresh fruits and vegetables at grocery stores - and only have access to calorie dense convenience stores. Breaks create a time of hunger.

So, what's the solution? Prepare food totes for the children to take home. Some things to include: peanut butter and crackers, granola bars, shelf life milk, juice boxes, microwaveable meals, healthy fruit snacks, applesauce, crackers, and more. These are just some items that could be included.

### **2. The Joy of Christmas**

Christmas is a joyous time for families to spend together. But for families living in poverty, Christmas is a reminder that they cannot give the joy of Christmas to their family. Celebrating the joy of giving is one way we can help families understand the free gift of God's love.

One way you can share this amazing gift of Christmas is through a Christmas Store for parents. Collect new toys, hats, gloves, socks, books, and underwear through a community toy drive. Then, instead of letting the kids pick out what they want, allow parents to come "shop" for their children. After parents have shopped, use volunteers to wrap the presents and let the parents take them home and put them under the tree. Parents appreciate being able to choose what they want and the children receive gifts from mom and dad, not someone else. This preserves the dignity of the parents and unites a family.

### **3. Celebrate with the Forgotten**

Remember your local nursing homes. So often those living in the nursing homes are forgotten during the holiday season. But it's a great opportunity to engage your church or CMC to love on these elderly neighbors.

Perhaps, go caroling. Or, take some time to walk room to room to listen and pray with the folks living there. Maybe have your youth group bake cookies or decorate cards to deliver.

These are just a few of the **MANY** ways you can share the joy of Christmas with those in need this year.

## From Caring at Christmas to Long-Term Engagement

The holidays are a good time to recruit new volunteers and raise awareness about local compassionate ministries. During Thanksgiving and Christmas season people are eager to serve. Online searches for volunteer opportunities increase by 15-20% during this time<sup>[1]</sup> and churches and other groups often coordinate locally to organize their own Christmas service events.

Compassionate Ministries Centers can organize holiday service opportunities to initiate lasting connections between their work and potential long-term volunteers. These events are an opportunity to orient volunteers to the organization and its mission, make a good first impression, and introduce volunteers to staff, clients, and other volunteers.

1. **Plan a holiday service event** that provides new volunteers with a simple opportunity to give back and make a meaningful contribution. Ensure that opportunities generate a positive attitude.
2. **Communicate important details** of the volunteer opportunity and how to sign up.
3. **Orient volunteers to the organization**, the population it serves, and how the service opportunity contributes to its mission.
4. **Provide adequate instructions** that equip volunteers to perform the task.
5. **Gather contact information to follow up** after the event, thank volunteers for their help, and let them know the difference they have made.
6. **Make experiences memorable** by allowing volunteers to interact directly with beneficiaries and build personal connections with staff and other volunteers.
7. **Arrange a time of reflection** at the conclusion of the event to allow volunteers to identify personal significance of the experience.
8. **Be prepared with a plan** for how short-term volunteers can become more involved.
9. **Provide information about additional volunteer opportunities** that fulfill typical volunteer motivations (passion for the mission, meeting new people, developing new skills).

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[1] <http://blogs.volunteermatch.org/engagingvolunteers/2013/10/29/how-to-make-holidays-your-volunteer-recruitment-ace-in-the-hole/>

## Resources

**Family Volunteer Day Toolkit:** Step by Step guidelines for Families and Churches Planning Their Own Service Opportunities

# Compassionate Ministries Center Development Program

The Compassionate Ministries Center development program is a two level technical assistances series. It is designed for Nazarene Compassionate Ministries. The yearlong program is a combination of webinar and onsite trainings combined with personal implementation support as needed accompanied with toolkits, training materials, and videos. Sessions are recorded so they can be reused by the CMCs for educating their other staff, volunteers and board members.

The focus of the program is to help CMCs better develop a focus on sustainability and impact. **To date, over 200 individuals have gone through the program since its inception in 2013.** Topics include board development, long-term fundraising planning, mission and vision focus, staff and board leadership, case statement and outcomes definition, volunteer management and engagement, strategic alignment and planning, etc.

Graduates of the level 1 program are eligible to continue on into the advanced program, level 2. This level is even more hands on and includes full board evaluations for each CMC.

**The program is no change to participating CMCs as a scholarship program of NCM.**

The comprehensive program evaluations of this initiative have shown every year that this program is having a significant impact on sustainability, ability to raise money, engage and develop the board, clarify vision and focus, equip Executive Directors to better lead, defining and measuring impact and outcomes, engaging community, and building overall healthier CMCs.

## **2017 CMC Level 1:**

This program is designed to create learning communities with the staff of the compassionate ministries. There is no fee for participation of CMCs. This is a yearlong program, as outlined below. We have found this program to be beneficial for Executive Directors, board members, program staff, administrative staff and finance staff by ensuring that they all have a solid understanding of what sustainability can look like for their CMCs.

- **Ask The Expert Service** - (Service for Entire Year for Participants)
- **Resources Provided to Each Ministry Leader:**
  - Handbook on Philanthropic Sustainability
  - Handbook on Being a Board Member
  - Board Leadership and Governance Development DVD for each agency
- **Complete Philanthropic Sustainability Toolkit CD** including: Templates for building annual sustainability programs, educational guides, and all tools needed to implement the fund raising program processed in the training sessions



- **Training Intervention Sessions:** (Includes cost of Webex, cost of hosting video recorded webinars and trainings and unlimited access viewing for 12 months) Webinars are 1 hour.
  - **Session 1:** Webinar: Introduction session, Vision: 1% Rule, Strategic Alignment and Implications of board leadership and development on sustainability
  - **Session 2:** Webinar: Framing Philanthropy, Renewal and Sustainability
  - **Session 3:** Webinar: Donor Progression and deepening donor relationships
  - **Session 4:** Onsite at Shepherd Community Center in Indianapolis. Dinner, and 1 full day of training and application. Topics: Direct applications of sustainability, building fundraising plans, translating the case for support, Outcomes and impact, and assessing your own fund raising and readiness for future capital efforts. Plus learning of Shepherd Community Center and other CMCs.
  - **Session 5:** Webinar: Social Media Level 1 & Wrap up
  - **Session 6:** Webinar: Translating and raising money for operational and overhead costs OR Outcomes/Outputs and Finance and FR Conflict

**Interested?** To learn more about signing up yourself or someone else for the Compassionate Ministries Center Development Program, contact **[Angel Sigui at asigui@nazarene.org](mailto:asigui@nazarene.org)**.

## Youth in Mission Needs Your Help



Youth In Mission needs your help connecting with young adults (18-25-year-olds) like Levi! He graduated a couple of years ago from high school and started working. He grew up in a Nazarene youth group and has a heart for joining the mission of Christ. While he's not sure what is next in life, he is committed to following Jesus. Local Nazarene leaders recognized his potential and recommended him for Youth In Mission. Levi applied and served in Cactus, TX last summer. **[You can read more of Levi's story HERE.](#)**

**Would you be willing to invest in the lives of young adults on your district by forwarding this mission opportunity offered through the USA/Canada Church of the Nazarene to local churches?**



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